

Ser. No. 10/685,610

Remarks

Claims 1-13 were pending in the application. Claims 1-13 were rejected. No claims were merely objected to and no claims were allowed. By the foregoing amendment, no claims are canceled, claims 3 and 6 are amended, and claims 14-20 are added. No new matter is presented.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to for failing to show the curve of claim 6. In view of the foregoing amendment to claim 6, the objection is overcome.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112(2). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

It was asserted that "electro-graphitic carbon" did not appear to be a recognized term of art. Applicants disagree. As is noted below, the material (also known in non-hyphenated form and by the acronym EGC), is known typically from electrical applications. These are discussed further below. Accordingly, the rejection is believed overcome.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102/103

Claims 1-3, 7-9, and 13 were rejected as being anticipated by Naudet et al. (US4706354). Claims 4-6 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Naudet et al. in view of Official Notice. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Naudet discloses use of "an automotive lubricating material... such as carbon or graphite" Col. 3, ~line 55. There is no suggestion for this to be electrographitic carbon.

Prior art use of graphite-filled polyimide is described as the relevant prior art in paragraph 0003 of the present application. There is no reason to believe that Naudet is anything more than this. At higher temperatures, the polyimide resin will suffer a loss of mechanical properties and surface stability resulting in failure of the bushing.

The independent claims identify the electrographitic carbon. Electrographitic carbon (EGC) is typically used in electrical applications such as motor brushes (see US 5,311,615) and electro-discharge machining (EDM) electrodes. EGC, however, has significantly higher

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thermo-tolerance than the cited polyimide prior art. See, paragraphs 0011 and 14 of the present application. These identify EGC operational temperatures of 850°F and 1050°F (also added dependent claims). Advantageous EGC performance data is identified in paragraph 0014. Thus there is further no suggestion for these temperatures.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Please charge any fees or deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account of record.

Respectfully submitted,

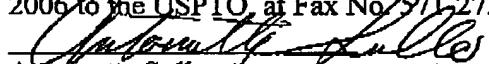
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By William B. Slate
William B. Slate
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No.: 37,238

Telephone: 203-777-6628
Telefax: 203-865-0297

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted this 21st day of November, 2006 to the USPTO at Fax No. 571-273-8300.


Antoinette Sullo